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This survey, which was designed to examine the use of Saturday classes by regular resident students in major State universities and land-grant institutions, revealed no significant trends regarding the use of such classes.

Findings are based on data reported in questionnaires returned from 76 of the 77 major State universities and land-grant institutions arbitrarily selected for the survey by the author. The report shows that three-fourths of the total responding institutions had Saturday classes for regular resident students but used them to widely varying degrees, some requiring attendance, others making attendance optional.

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A SURVEY OF THE USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES BY REGULAR RESIDENT STUDENTS IN MAJOR STATE UNIVERSITIES AND LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

by

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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--Prepared in the
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Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida
Spring, 1962

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INTRODUCTION. In the spring of 1962 the Florida State University had need for information concerning the use of Saturday classes by regular resident students in major state universities and land-grant institutions. A survey of the literature revealed nothing of consequence. Nor were answers available from correspondence with organizations, agencies, or individuals who conceivably might have provided the needed data. Since the required information was not forthcoming from other sources, the Office of Institutional Research and Service at the Florida State University resolved to gather information directly from the institutions concerned.

TECHNIQUE OF THE STUDY. The choice of institutions included in the study was arbitrary on the part of the writer. Information was obtained from each institution by means of a one-page questionnaire. (A copy of the questionnaire used in the survey constitutes Exhibit A at the end of this report.) In each instance the questionnaire and covering letter were sent to the registrar. In the great majority of cases the registrar himself completed and returned the questionnaire. In a few instances this task was performed by such officers as directors of admissions, directors of institutional research, or other appropriate officers.

In the covering letter it was made clear that the concern was with the use of Saturday classes by regular resident students, not commuting teachers, extension short course participants, and the like.

Information supplied in the completed questionnaires was tabulated by hand but the data were double checked for accuracy.

INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY. A copy of the questionnaire was sent to each of 77 major state universities and land-grant institutions the selection of which, as indicated earlier, was arbitrary on the part of the writer. (A list of the institutions included in the study constitutes Exhibit B at the end of this report.) Replies were received from 76 of the 77 institutions, a 98.7 per cent response. The 76 institutions from which replies were received constitute the population for this study from this point forward.

USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES. Of the 76 institutions replying to the questionnaire 57 or 75.0 per cent operate Saturday classes for regular resident students while 19 institutions or 25.0 per cent do not operate Saturday classes for such students.

EXTENT TO WHICH USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES IS APPLIED. The extent to which Saturday classes are used among the 57 institutions which operate them varies widely. One institution indicates that 80 per cent of its "total class offerings meet in a class pattern which requires at least one meeting a week on Saturday morning"; another reports 65 per cent usage. On the other hand each of 11 institutions reports that one per cent or less of classes meet on Saturday and each of 18 institutions (including the 11 just mentioned) indicates that five per cent or less of classes meet on Saturday morning. Of the 57 institutions operating Saturday classes each of 37 (or 64.9 per cent of the 57) reports that 25 per cent or less of the total class offerings are scheduled for Saturday meetings.

REQUIRED VERSUS OPTIONAL USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES. Twenty four (24) or 42.1 per cent of the 57 institutions having Saturday classes require certain

elements or all of the student body to enroll for such classes.[1] In 32 or 56.1 per cent of the 57 institutions the use of Saturday classes is optional on the part of students. One institution (1.8 per cent) did not respond to this item on the questionnaire.

USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES, BY TYPE OF ACADEMIC CALENDAR. Of the 76 institutions included in the survey 56 or 73.7 per cent operate on semester calendars; 20 or 26.3 per cent operate on quarter calendars. No institution included in this study currently operates on a trimester calendar although two of them (University of Florida and Florida State University) are scheduled to begin operating on such calendars in September, 1962.

Among the institutions used as the population for this study the use of Saturday classes is substantially more common among institutions operating on semester calendars than it is among institutions operating on quarter calendars. Among the 56 institutions using semester calendars 46 or 82.1 per cent have Saturday classes while among the 20 institutions using quarter calendars 11 or 55.0 per cent schedule Saturday classes for regular resident students. The reader will remember that the combined figures for institutions operating on both types of calendars are 76 institutions with 57 or 75.0 per cent operating Saturday Classes.

USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION. Major state universities and land-grant institutions in the midwestern and west coast states (including Alaska and Hawaii) use Saturday classes more frequently (88.9 per cent and 87.5 per cent respectively) than do similar institutions in the southern and western mountain states (68.2 per cent and 63.2 per cent respectively).

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[1]For example, one institution reported that "98 per cent of all entering freshmen and 65 per cent of the total student body" attend Saturday classes.

TRENDS REGARDING THE USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES. This study reveals no significant trends regarding the use of Saturday classes. Five institutions now operating Saturday classes indicate they are considering abolishing them completely. An equal number (five) not now having Saturday classes indicate they are considering establishing them.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS. Numerous miscellaneous comments were volunteered by respondents. Two persons in institutions not currently having Saturday classes reported that although no change is being actively considered at present their institutions will undoubtedly have to move into programs of Saturday classes as enrollments increase. Three other persons from institutions already having Saturday classes were of the opinion that the use of such classes will be greatly expanded within the next few years. Said one respondent, "Twice within the past 10 years we have considered abolishing Saturday classes and both times we have rejected the idea." Said another person, "Saturday morning time is extremely valuable. We would not consider allowing a multimillion dollar plant to lie idle during these hours!"

On the other hand several individuals spoke of difficulties encountered in operating Saturday classes. They indicated that, in general, faculty and students are opposed to such classes. Said one registrar, "It is a continuous fight with students and faculty to utilize Saturday classes. All kinds of ways--devious and otherwise--are used to avoid such." Said another respondent, "Mid-day and night classes are more popular than are Saturday morning classes." Said still another, "There is some serious objection to them [Saturday classes] by students and faculty." From a midwestern university came this comment: " . . . they [Saturday classes] have been a source of constant irritation because neither the students nor the faculty like them." Finally a registrar in an eastern university had this to say: "Other state offices are closed

[on Saturday]. Our own secretarial and janitorial staff is free on Saturday. The cultural trend is toward a five-day (or shorter) work week."

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS. Reported here are the findings of a survey of the use of Saturday classes by regular resident students in major state universities and land-grant institutions. The survey was made by the use of a questionnaire, sent in each instance to the registrar of each of 77 institutions. Replies were received from 76 institutions. These 76 institutions constitute the population of this study.

In brief, the findings are as follow:

1. Three-fourths (75.0 per cent) of the institutions included in this study operate Saturday classes for regular resident students; one-fourth (25.0 per cent) of the institutions do not operate such classes.

2. Among the institutions which operate Saturday classes the extent of use varies widely. One institution reports that 80 per cent of its classes meet on Saturday, another 65 per cent. At the other extreme several institutions (to be exact, 11 or 19.3 per cent of the 57 operating such classes) report that one per cent or less of their classes meet on Saturday.

3. Among institutions operating Saturday classes more than two out of five (42.1 per cent) require certain parts or all of the student body to enroll in such classes. In more than half (56.1 per cent) of such institutions the choice regarding Saturday classes is optional with students. One institution did not answer the question.

4. Major state universities and land-grant institutions operating on semester calendars use Saturday classes more frequently than do similar institutions operating on quarter calendars. Of the former, 82.1 per cent operate Saturday classes; for institutions operating on quarter calendars the correspond-

ing figure is 55.0 per cent. The figure for both types of institutions combined is 75.0 per cent. No institution included in this study currently operates on a trimester calendar.

5. Saturday classes are operated more frequently among major state universities and land-grant institutions in the midwestern and west coast states (88.9 per cent and 87.5 per cent respectively) than among similar institutions in the southern and western mountain states (68.2 per cent and 63.2 respectively).

6. This study reveals no significant trends regarding the use of Saturday classes.

7. Comments volunteered by respondents were numerous, miscellaneous, sometimes conflicting, and inconclusive as to significance.

EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A

Please return completed form to:
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND SERVICE
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

SURVEY OF USE OF SATURDAY CLASSES
BY REGULAR RESIDENT STUDENTS IN
MAJOR STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS

a. Name of institution: _____

b. Name and position of person responding: _____

c. Calendar on which your institution operates: Semester_____; Quarter_____;
Other (explain) _____
_____

d. Do you wish us to send you a copy of the findings of this survey? Yes__; No__.

* *

1. Does your institution offer Saturday morning classes for the use of regular resident students? Yes_____; No_____.

2. If your institution does not now offer Saturday morning classes, is consideration being given to moving into such a program? Yes_____; No_____. If "Yes," why? _____
_____

NOTE. If the answer to question No. 1 is "No" please disregard the remainder of the questions and return the form with no further information indicated. If the answer to question No. 1 is "Yes" please answer the remainder of the questions.

3. Are regular resident students required (with possible exceptions for students who work or have other good excuses) to take some classes which meet on Saturday morning or is the scheduling of Saturday classes optional on the part of the student? Required_____; Optional with Student_____; Other (explain) _____

4. Approximately what percentage (an estimate will be satisfactory) of your total class offerings meet in a class pattern which requires at least one meeting a week on Saturday morning? Percentage (or estimated percentage)_____%.

5. In your institution is consideration being given to abolishing Saturday classes? Yes_____; No_____. If "Yes," why? _____
_____

EXHIBIT B

LIST OF MAJOR STATE UNIVERSITIES AND LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS SURVEY

1. Auburn University
2. University of Alabama
3. University of Alaska
4. Arizona State University
5. University of Arizona
6. University of Arkansas
7. University of California (Berkeley)
8. University of California (Los Angeles)
9. Colorado State University
10. University of Colorado
11. University of Connecticut
12. University of Delaware
13. Florida State University
14. University of Florida
15. Georgia Institute of Technology
16. University of Georgia
17. University of Hawaii
18. University of Idaho
19. Southern Illinois University
20. University of Illinois
21. Indiana University
22. Purdue University
23. Iowa State University of Science and Technology
24. State University of Iowa
25. Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Science
26. University of Kansas
27. University of Kentucky
28. Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
29. University of Maine
30. University of Maryland
31. University of Massachusetts
32. Michigan State University of Agriculture and Applied Science
33. University of Michigan
34. Wayne State University
35. University of Minnesota
36. Mississippi State University
37. University of Mississippi
38. University of Missouri
39. Montana State College
40. Montana State University
41. University of Nebraska
42. University of Nevada
43. University of New Hampshire
44. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
45. New Mexico State University of Agriculture, Engineering and Science

46. University of New Mexico
47. State College of Agriculture and Engineering (Raleigh, N.C.)
48. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
49. North Dakota State University
50. University of North Dakota
51. Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
52. Ohio State University
53. Ohio University
54. Oklahoma State University of Agriculture and Applied Science
55. University of Oklahoma
56. Oregon State University
57. University of Oregon
58. Pennsylvania State University
59. University of Puerto Rico
60. University of Rhode Island
61. Clemson Agricultural College
62. University of South Carolina
63. South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts
64. State University of South Dakota
65. University of Tennessee
66. Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas
67. University of Texas
68. University of Utah
69. Utah State University of Agriculture and Applied Science
70. University of Vermont and State Agricultural College
71. University of Virginia
72. Virginia Polytechnic Institute*
73. University of Washington
74. Washington State University
75. West Virginia University
76. University of Wisconsin
77. University of Wyoming

*No reply was received from this institution.